

NSC BRIEFING

2 July 1958

NORTH AFRICA

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I. Both the Moroccan and Tunisian governments are seriously considering the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with the USSR and possibly other members of the bloc.

A. The Moroccan Government decided in principle on 23 June to establish diplomatic relations with Moscow soon, [redacted]

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[redacted] Rabat is expected to announce "official recognition" of Communist China shortly and to establish diplomatic relations soon thereafter.

B. The Tunisian Government decided, prior to 11 June, to establish "active diplomatic relations" in the near future; President Bourguiba told an American news correspondent on 15 June he now was convinced a Soviet embassy should be allowed to open in Tunis.

1. A Tunisian trade mission will soon go to Belgrade, Sofia and Moscow.

C. Whichever North African state exchanges ambassadors first the other probably will follow suit very quickly.

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